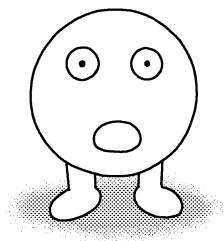


MANGA INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY



**Masahiro Morioka
Nyancofu Terada**

**Manga Introduction to Philosophy:
An Exploration of Time, Existence,
the Self, and the Meaning of Life**

**This book is also available in a Kindle
ebook edition at Amazon.com and
other Kindle stores:**

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/Bo8TVMF8CP/>

Manga Introduction to Philosophy

An Exploration of Time, Existence,
the Self, and the Meaning of Life

Masahiro Morioka

Nyancofu Terada

Translated by Robert Chapeskie

Tokyo Philosophy Project
Tokyo

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Foreword to the English Translation

This book was first published in Japanese in 2013 and was warmly welcomed not only by general readers but also by specialists in philosophy. I believe that it succeeded in breaking new ground in the field of introductory approaches to philosophy.

Many manga or comic books explaining the thought of major philosophers have already been published. There have also been manga whose story was conceived by philosophers. To the best of my knowledge, however, *there has never been a book in which a philosopher has illustrated his or her own philosophical thought entirely in manga form*. There are no doubt many philosophers who can draw manga or illustrations, so it's quite strange that no such book has been published until now.

“I want to try drawing a manga introduction to philosophy myself!”

After this idea came to me, I began by taking a draft of about twenty manga pages to

the editing department at Kodansha Publications. The characters were awkward at first, but as I kept drawing they seemed to move more smoothly, and by the time I had finished it almost felt like they were speaking for themselves.

I drew around 220 original pages in detail using a pencil. Manga creator Nyancofu Terada then gave these pencil drawings professional lines. It is entirely thanks to him that I was able to publish my manga in the Kodansha paperback series.

As the title says, this book is an introduction to philosophy. I tried to write about questions like “What is philosophy?” and “What does it mean to think philosophically” for a general readership. This is not a book that presents easy-to-understand explanations of the theories of famous philosophers. Instead, I have tried to express as clearly as possible how I myself think about four major topics: “time,” “existence,” “I,” and “life.” By following this route, the reader will be led directly to the core elements of philosophical thought. My aim was to imbue this journey with a sense of speed and

intensity.

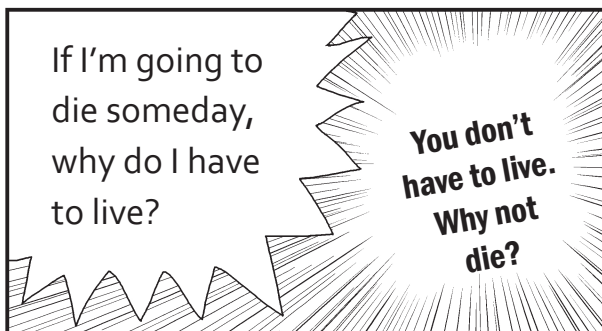
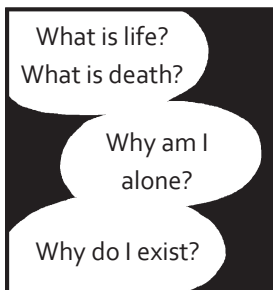
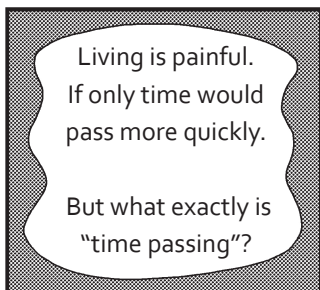
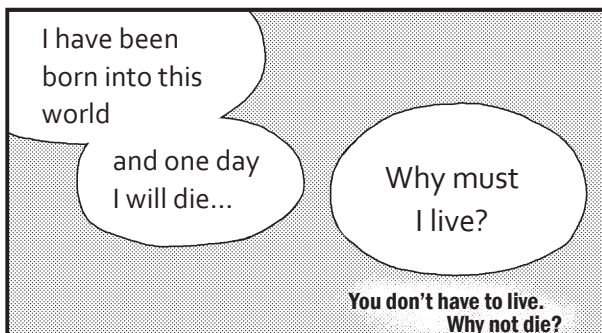
You can approach the essence of philosophy more quickly by visually experiencing the dynamic progression of philosophical thought than by simply reading explanatory texts on famous philosophers of the past. Philosophy and manga are truly suited to each other. This book also progresses as a dialogue between a student and a teacher. Plato's writings, too, were dialogues between Socrates and his disciples. Manga is a great tool for effectively presenting these dialogues. Manga can be another "royal road" to philosophy. I was raised on manga from the earliest time I can remember, and I've been thoroughly steeped in its mode of expression. I hope the day will come when there is hardly anyone left who looks down on a book just because it is manga.

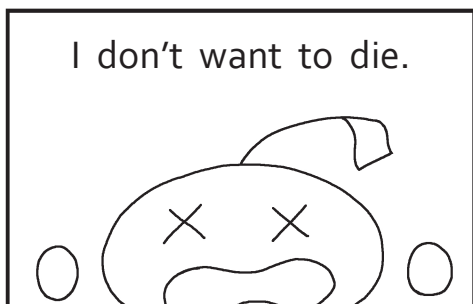
Those who are familiar with philosophy will no doubt recognize the famous ideas of earlier philosophers here and there in the text, but these are eventually tied into my own philosophy.

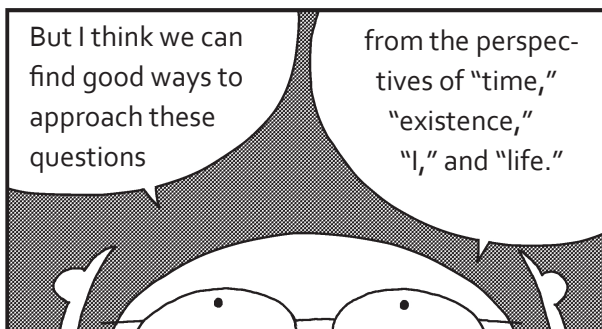
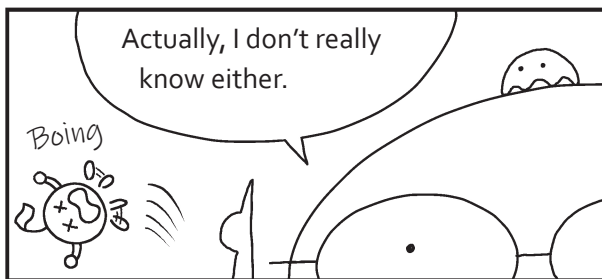
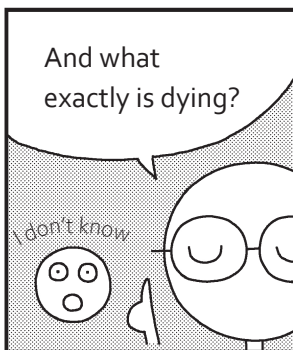
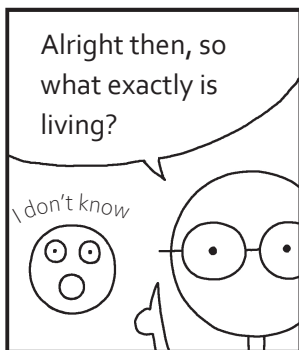
The main characters in our journey are an inquisitive boy (Manmaru-kun), his teacher

(Sensei), and strange, cute creatures. I hope readers enjoy their lively, philosophical dialogues as they unfold in the following chapters.

Masahiro Morioka







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Introduction to Philosophy

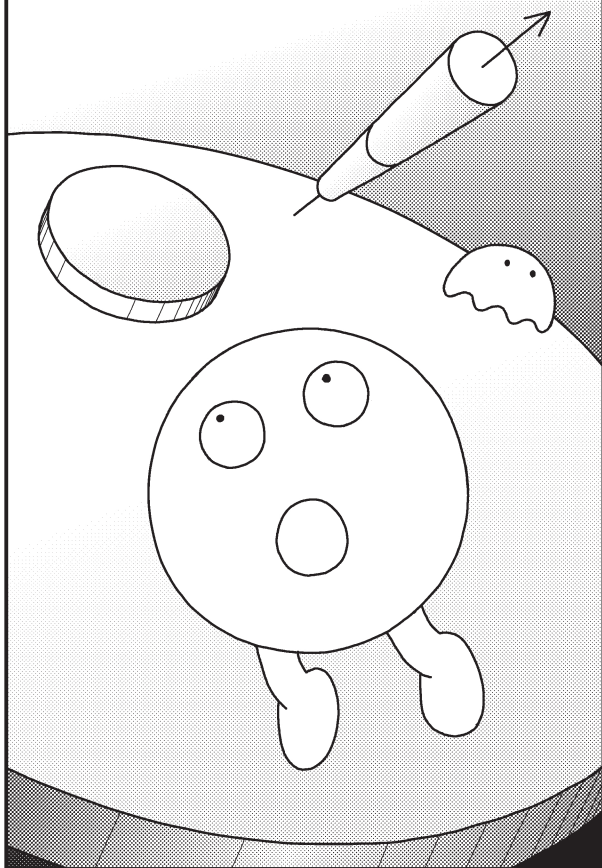


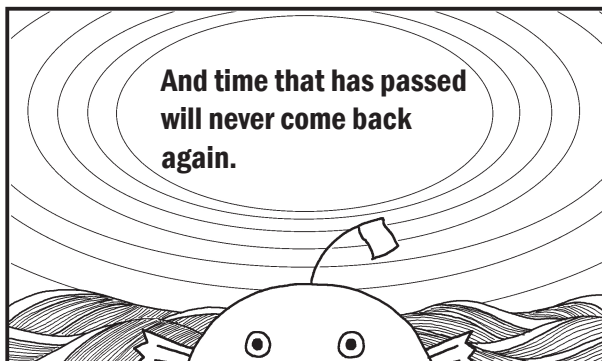
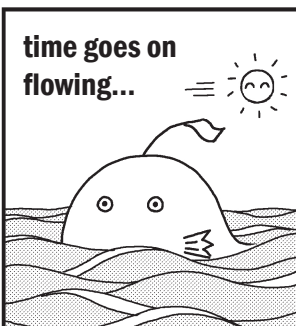
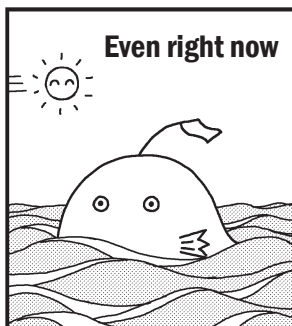
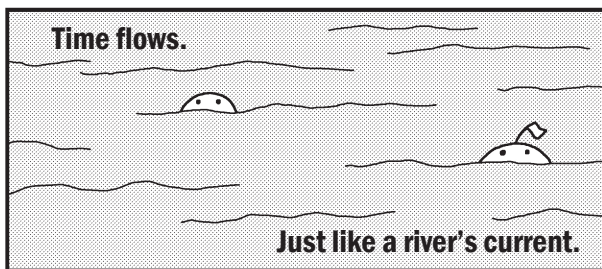
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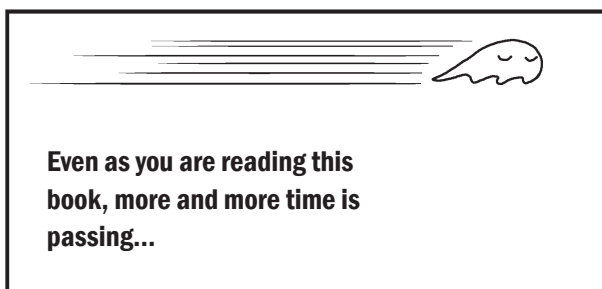
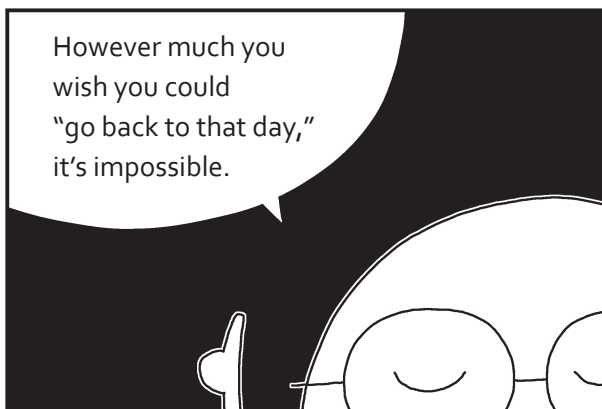
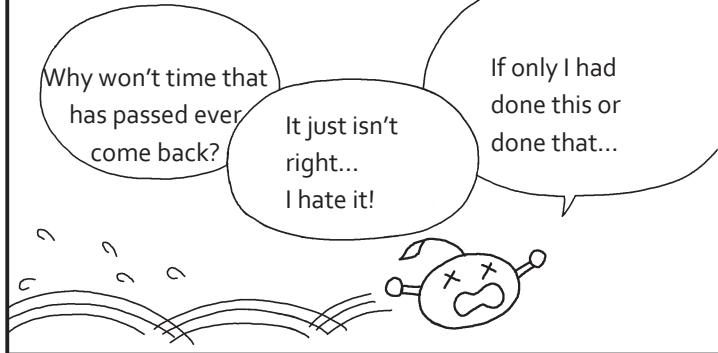
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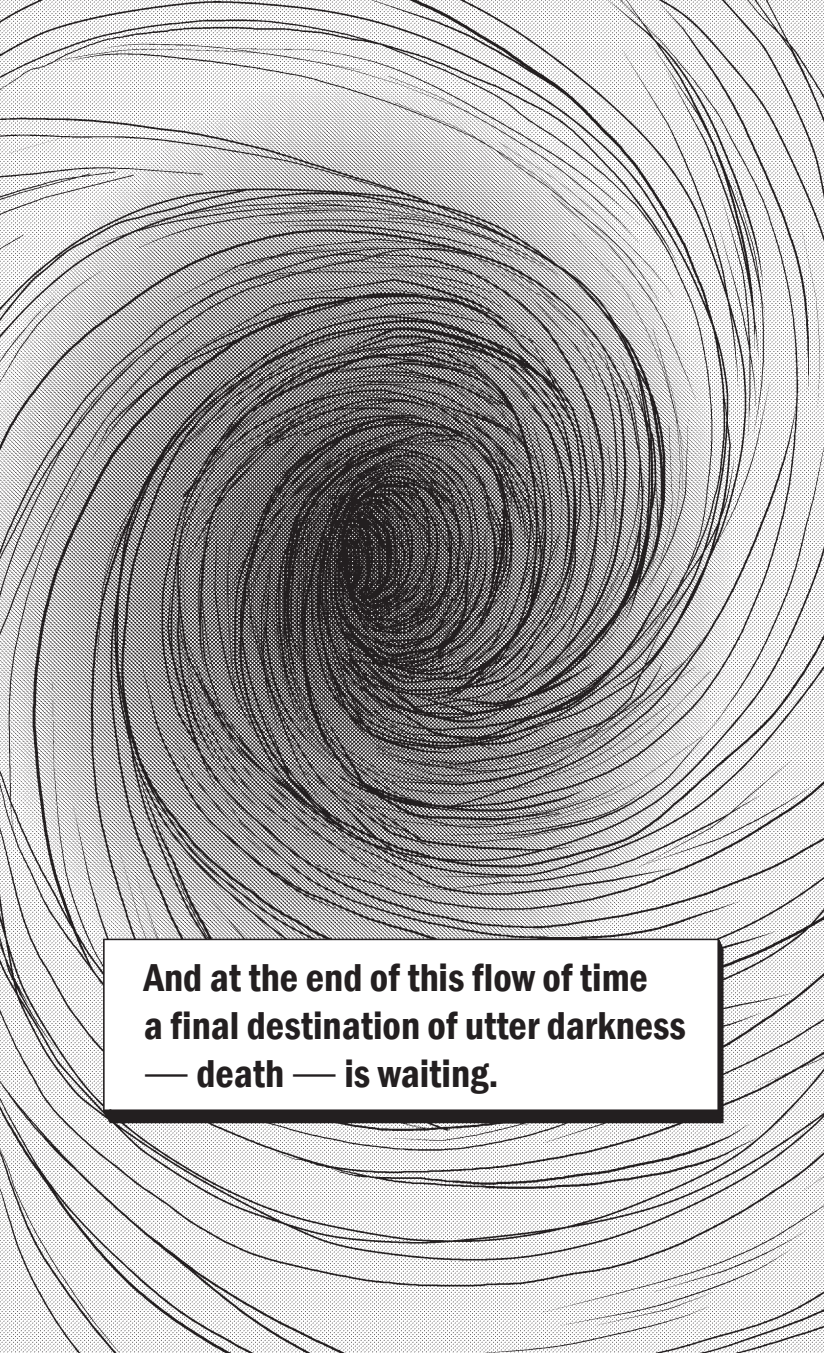
Chapter 1

What Is Time?









**And at the end of this flow of time
a final destination of utter darkness
— death — is waiting.**

That can't be right –
I don't want to die!

"Become eternal
nothing" – no way!



But before even 100
years have passed
you're certain to be
dead, aren't you?

How cruel!



By the way, if death lies at the
end of the flow of time, then
looking in the opposite
direction, from what point
exactly has time existed?

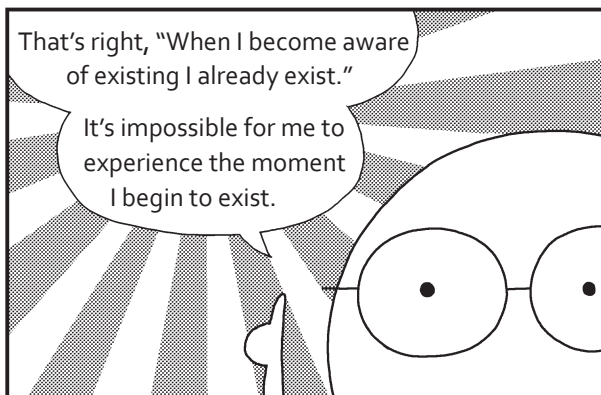
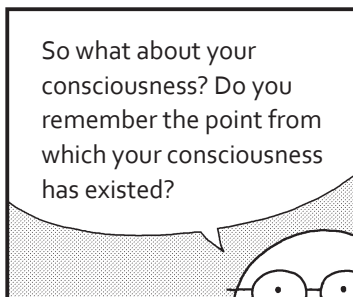
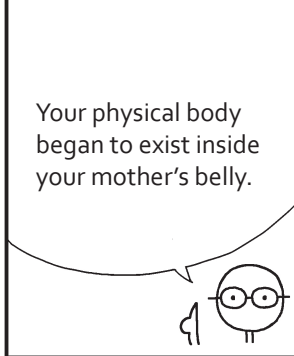
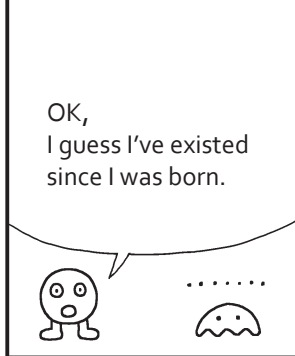


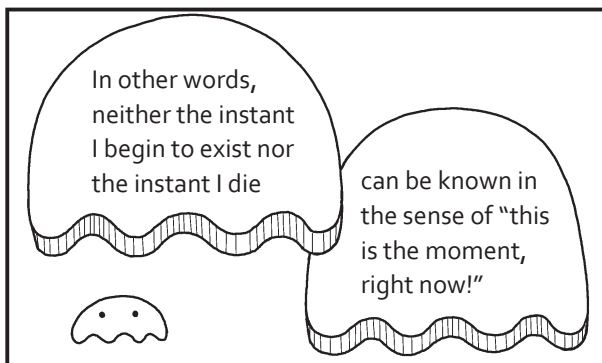
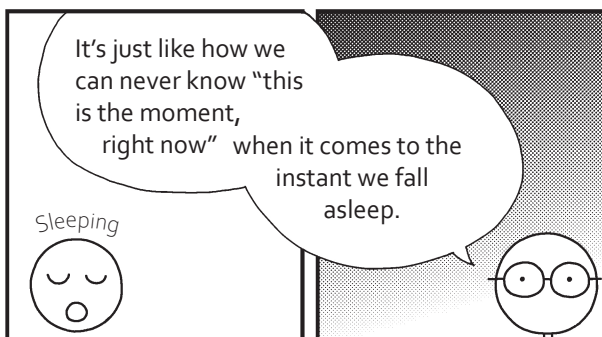
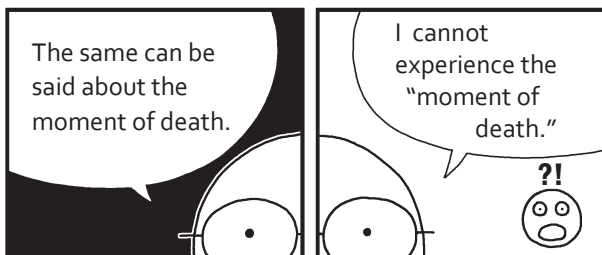
I'm not really
sure what you
mean...



Since when,
exactly, have you
existed?







In other words...

Looking to the past

When I become
aware of existing
I already exist.

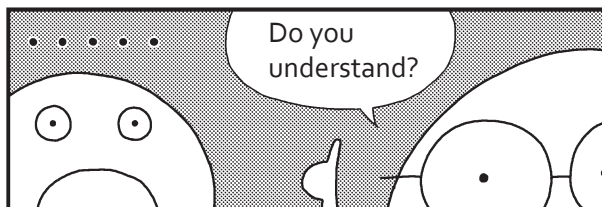
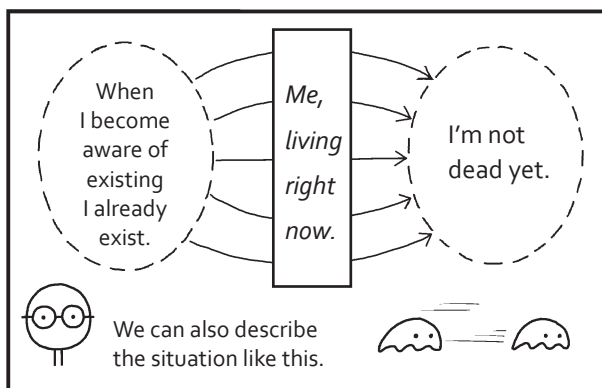


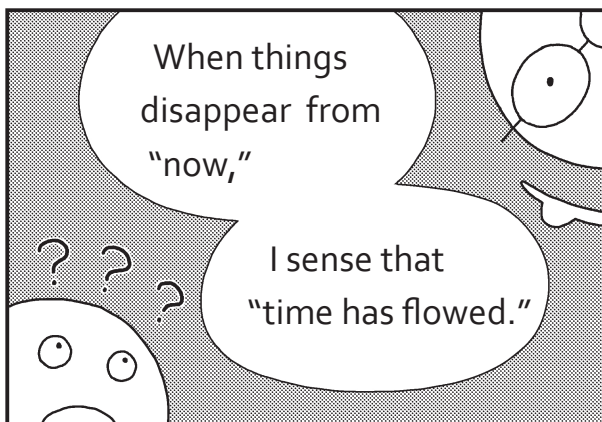
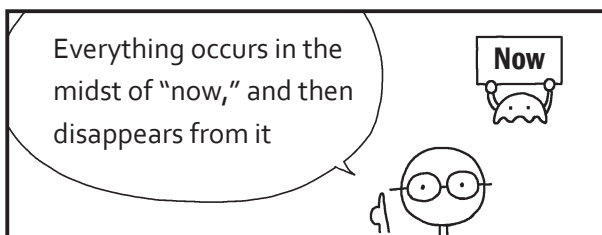
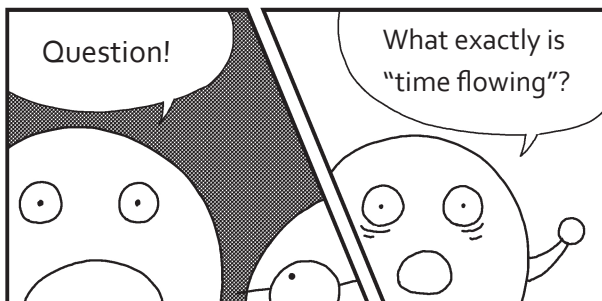
Looking to the future

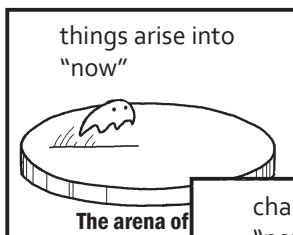
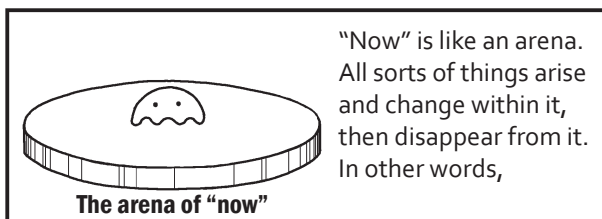
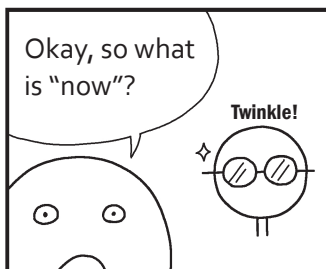
I'm not
dead yet.



...is all we can say







Everything takes
place within the arena
of "now." Therefore ...



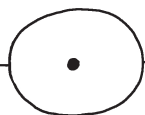
even if something were
to arise outside of the
arena of "now,"



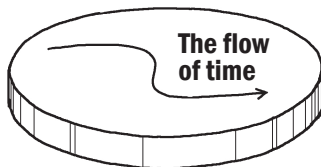
the arena of "now"
would extend its edge
until that too was
devoured.

In other words, the
arena of "now" has
no outside.

Really?

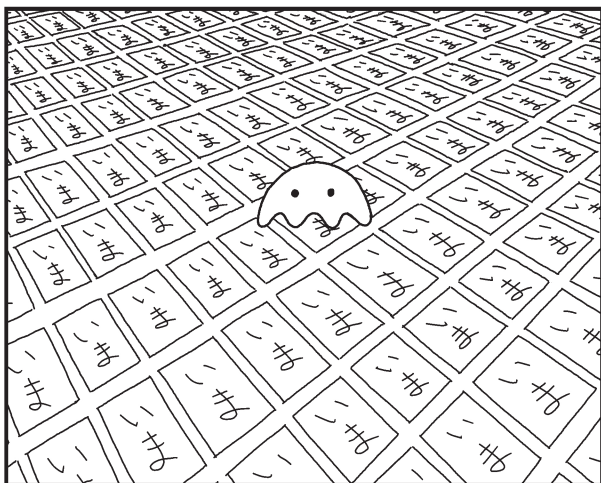


And inside the arena of "now"
flows the whole of time.

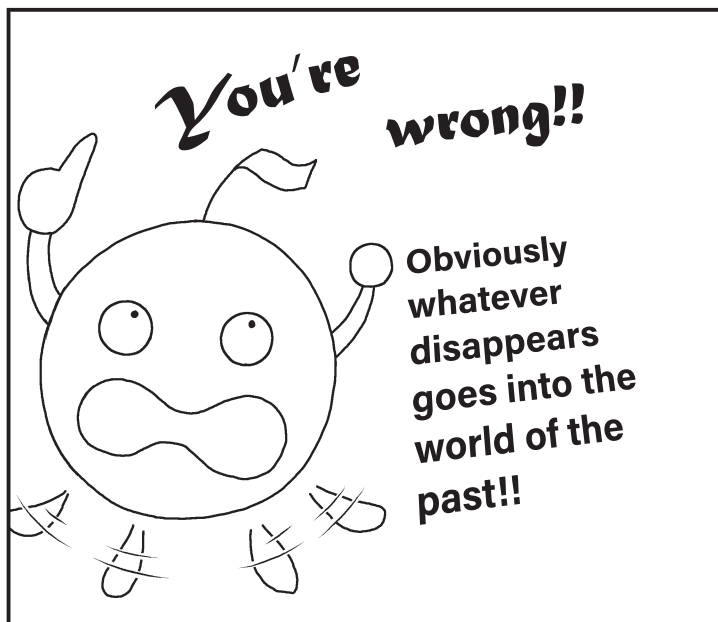
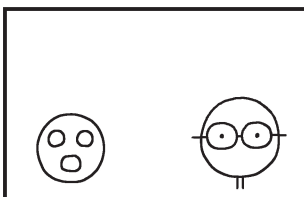
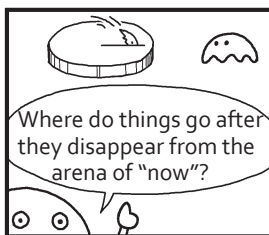
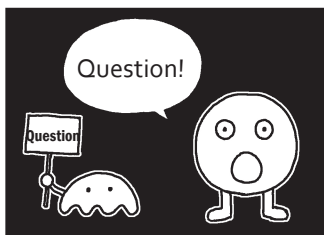


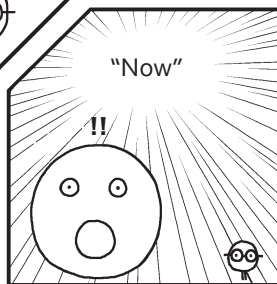
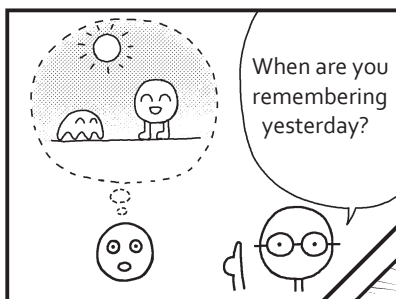
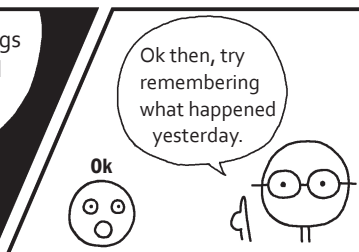
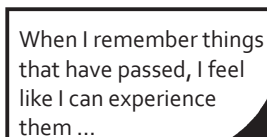
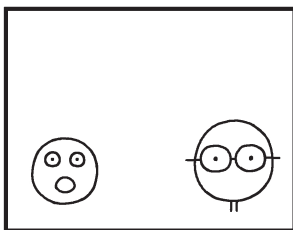
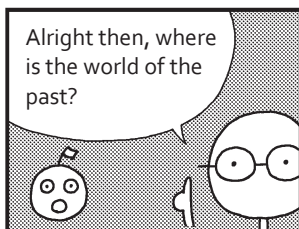
No way

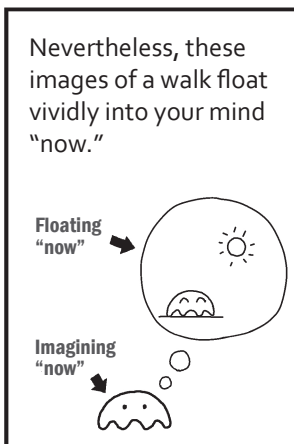
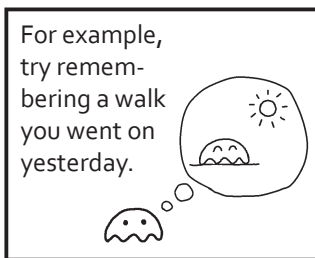
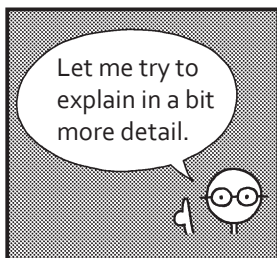
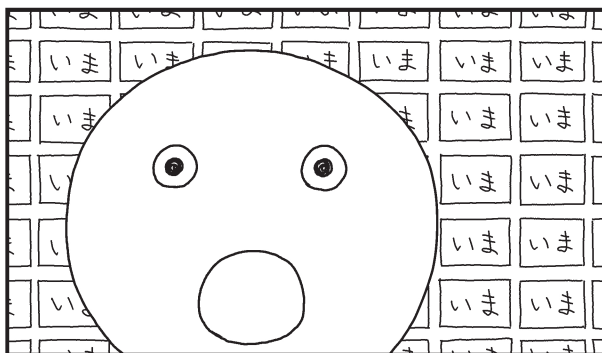


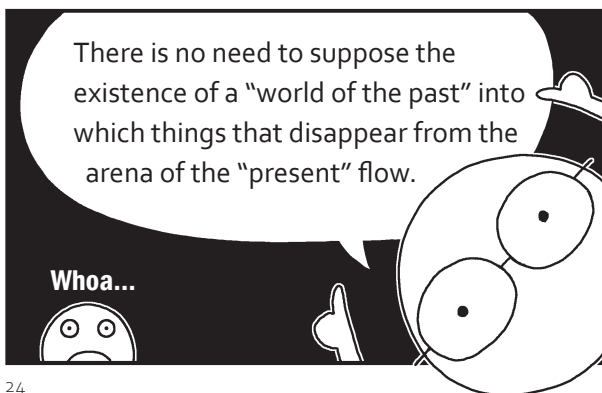
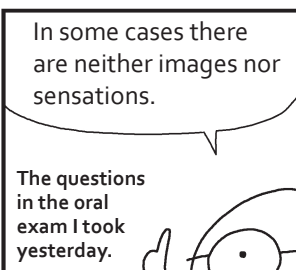
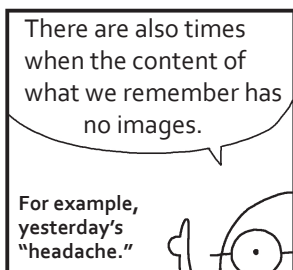
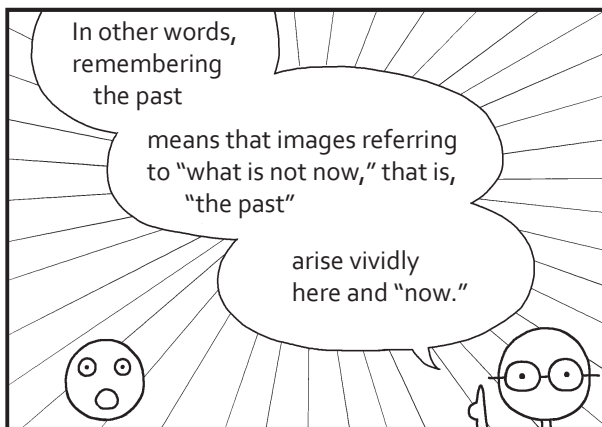


* いま means "now."









Let's think a bit more about what "now" is.



All kinds of things spring up out of nowhere into the arena of "now."

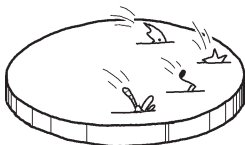


The arena of "now"

Inside the arena of "now" they change and transform.

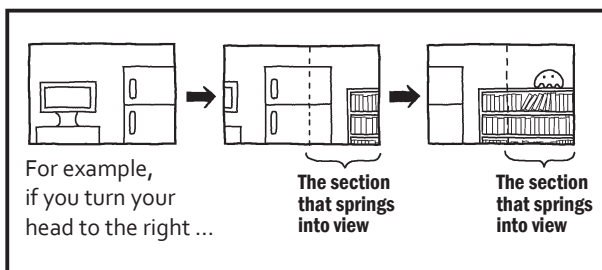
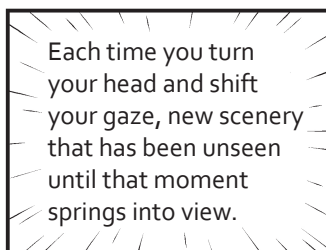
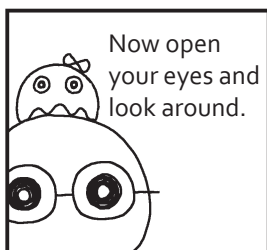
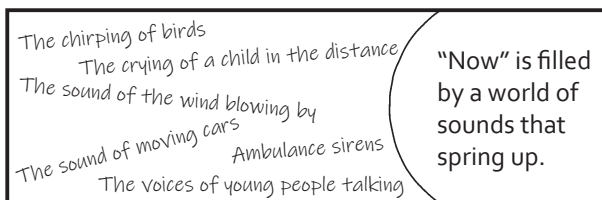
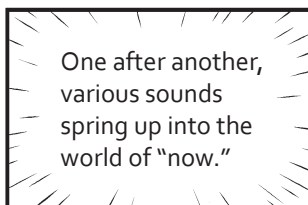


Then they disappear from the arena of "now."



"Now" is a thoroughly dynamic place, in which things that didn't exist before spring up ceaselessly

one after the other.



Open the window and take a look outside.

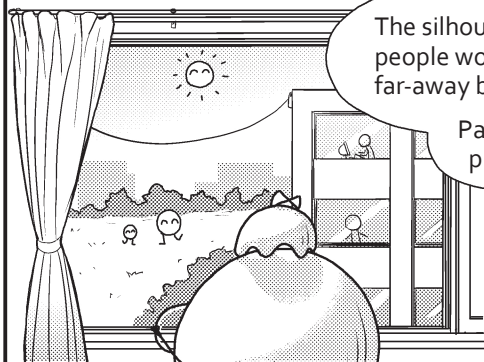
Light reflecting on the wall.

Swaying power lines.

The silhouettes of people working in a far-away building.

Parents and children playing in a park.

One after another, various sights spring into the world of "now."



Now close your eyes and listen to the voices of your body.

The beating of your heart.

A slight feeling of hunger.

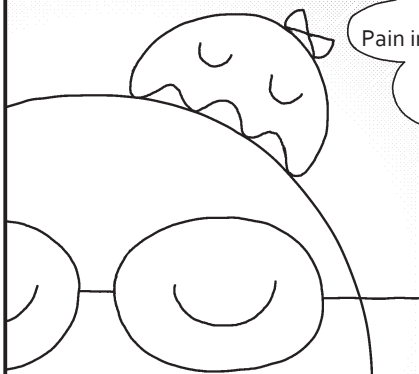
The sensation of air touching your skin.

Pain in your joints.

The movement of your chest as you breathe.

Images that float up and disappear.

Each of these is the emergence of something new springing up.



"Now" is a truly "abundant" world in which new things are endlessly springing up one after another.



Just like an erupting geyser, new things are always springing up into the world of "now."



What a joyful thing this is!



Even supposing that this world is full of inescapable boredom, depression, and unbearable pain and suffering,

to me the fact that these things spring up into

"now" itself is still incomparably joyful.

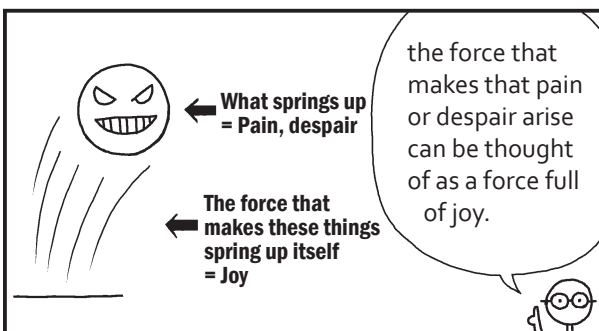


Of course, there are times when the pain or despair that springs up is so intense it renders us incapable of seeing the joy of this springing up itself.

This is a "joyful but unbearable" situation.



But no matter what kind of pain or despair springs up,



A force that causes only pleasurable, beautiful, and happy things to spring up isn't joyful.



What is truly joyful is the force that brings everything, including both pleasurable things and unbearably painful things, into the world of "now."



While "now" includes
the flow of time
towards the darkness
of death,

on the other hand,
it is also reinforced
by the joy of all
things ceaselessly
springing up anew.



Even if you are tormented
by pain, suffering, and
despair, I want you to try to
sense that hidden behind
these torments lies a force
of joy that causes them to
arise.

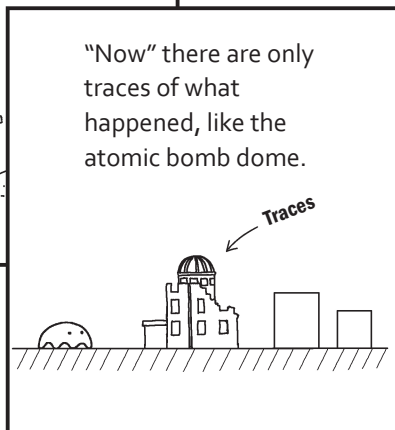
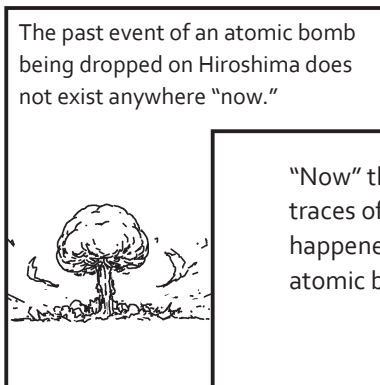
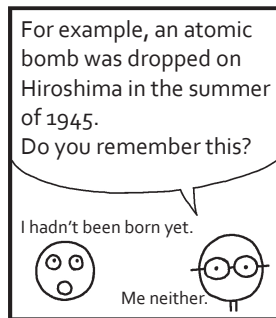
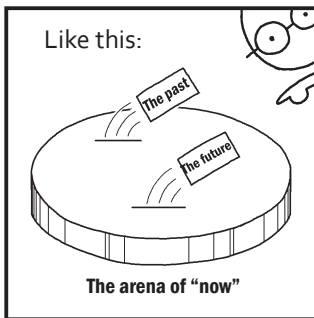
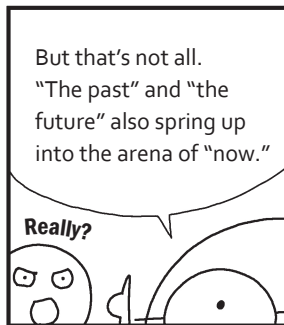


Is it OK that
I'm alive?



Yes,
it might be.







When I visit
Hiroshima on a
hot summer day,



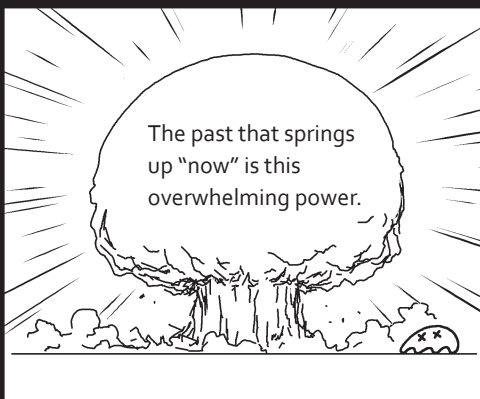
and stand in front of the
atomic bomb dome,



the past event of the bomb having
been dropped comes at me with
overwhelming power.



The past that springs
up "now" is this
overwhelming power.



Manga Introduction to Philosophy

An Exploration of Time, Existence, the Self, and the Meaning of Life

Masahiro Morioka

Chapter 1 What Is Time?

Part 1

<< You are here

[Part 2](#)

Chapter 2 What Is Existence?

[Part 1](#)

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Chapter 3 What Is “I”?

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Chapter 4 What Is Life?

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